1:Beals E-5 (1940-1941)1946 NU34 Tarasco NU34

236 Although mutton is eaten to some extent, sheep are raised primarily for wool. Sheep [262] are sheared twice a year, in late fall and early summer. A sheep yields about 1 pound of wool [435] in two shearings, which sells at from $1.00 to $1.25 (all monetary values are in Mexican currency). Black wool brings more than white (as it is all used locally for serape weaving).

233 *Goats.*—Only a few goats are raised. Normally they are herded with the sheep and are [234] treated like them. In rare instances the goats are milked, and the milk is made into cheese. [438] The most important use of goats is to sell them [262] for food, usually outside the town, as goat meat is rarely eaten in Cherán. Goatskins are sold uncured with the hair.

231 *Horses.*—Although some horses are bred in Cherán and some care is exercised in breeding, it is said the animals deteriorate because of the cold climate. Consequently, most horses are imported, but they also deteriorate rapidly. More important than the cold, undoubtedly, is the fact that no one in Cherán understands the care of horses. They are badly fed and receive little protection from the weather. Stallions are castrated.

In any case, horses are rare in Cherán and [492] are little used except as riding animals, especially by those with numerous cattle or pack animals. Riding and pack gear are the same [184] as those of the Mestizos. Although in other [241] Tarascan towns horses are used in plowing, this was denied in Cherán. A rather poor [435] horse costs about 70 pesos. Most horses be- [556] long to well-to-do men and primarily are indicators of social position. Attitudes toward owning a horse are a weak reflection of those of the vanishing Mexican *caballero*. Women almost never ride.

Horses are fed maize, oats, maize stalks, and [232] wheat or oat straw. Few people have any knowledge of treating illnesses of horses. [422] Ownership is indicated by branding, and horses [552] are given names similar to those used by [262] Mestizos. Horse meat is not eaten, but horse [281] hides are valued for tanning.

Mules.—Mules are even rarer than horses and have a higher value. Almost all are im- [492] ported. They are used mostly as pack animals, but occasionally they are ridden or used with the plow.

231 the plow. Care and practices otherwise are the same as for horses.

231 492 *Burros.*—"The poor man's mule" is one of the more common animals in Cherán. Often kept in a shed by the house, the burro is employed to bring in firewood (when he may be ridden to the woods), to bring in the harvest, carry goods on trading trips, and perform any other service of burden carrying. Burros may be used as light draft animals in such tasks as dragging brush over wheat fields to cover the seed after sowing. Often rented, especially at harvest time, burros are frequently lent to friends, neighbors, and relatives. Although hard-worked, they are usually better cared for and less abused than among the Mestizos. They are often fed rather than pastured, and saddle sores and other signs of abuse are relatively uncommon.

[262] [281] Burros are bred in the town. Jacks are not castrated. The flesh is never eaten and the hide is regarded as of little value.

231 *Dogs.*—Usually each household has one or perhaps two dogs, but large numbers of starved animals are rare. Ordinarily a dog is fed what the family has, and if a dog is underfed, usually the family is also. Dogs are always named, usually for "pretty things or animals" [551] such as Butterfly, Duke, Tiger, or Rattlesnake. Others are named for their coat color or because the name is liked. No effort is made to control the breeding of dogs.

Dogs are used in hunting, sheepherding, and to guard the house. In the latter capacity, the dogs of the *barrio* of Parícutin are much more aggressive than in the rest of the town. This may be because their masters are generally less friendly or may simply reflect the more rural character of the *barrio.*

[224] Hunting dogs are used to chase deer, squirrels, rabbits, and other animals after they have been wounded. Apparently no special training is given. Sheep dogs are trained by putting them on a leash with a sheep during the day and tying them near the sheep at night. They are encouraged to bark at the right time and to attack coyotes.

Cats.—Cats are not numerous in Cherán, although they are valued fairly highly because they combat the many rats which steal stored corn. Cats seem well treated and are some-

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389 elaborate, as they require fuses of various speeds, different colors of fire, and slow-burning types of powder. As handbooks exist for this type of manufacture and supply houses also furnish information to their patrons, it was felt that detailed inquiry into techniques was not worth while. The *cohetero* usually receives a small advance payment—5 to 15 pesos—when he accepts an order. He receives no further payment until the *castillo* is burned. Should [686] there be a failure, not only may the *cohetero* fail to receive his pay, but he may be jailed and fined.

Stonecutting.—Several men do stonecutting 324 on a part-time basis. Doorsills and bases for door posts and pillars are the major products, although some men also make grinding stones for *nixtamal* mills. A fine-grained gray lava from the barranca north of town is the most-used material. Tools include an iron-headed hammer, weighing about 2 pounds, steel chisels, and a pair of calipers. Stones for the *nixtamal* mills are made in pairs and are about a foot in diameter and 6 to 8 inches thick. About 3 days are required to make a pair.

Tanning.—The only full-time tanner of hides 281 in Cherán is a native of Aranza, who moved to Cherán because of the better water supply. He has a house and lot on the east side of town beside the aqueduct. Most of his work is done on hides brought him by shoemakers and *guarache* makers. Such work is charged for on a fee basis.

A man and his uncle also tan hides on a part-time basis. They are primarily farmers and do relatively little of the tanning in Cherán.

Cowhides are tanned with oak bark. The process takes 20 to 30 days, mostly occupied with soaking the hides in the tanning mixture. Sheepskins, used for inner soles of shoes, must be put through a lye bath, scraped, and then soaked with oak bark. A batch of five or six sheepskins requires 2 days' labor and about 8 days' soaking.

The principal equipment consists of a number of large hollow logs for soaking the hides.

Lacquer.—One woman learned lacquer mak- 532 ing in Uruapan. She works fairly steadily, producing a typical Uruapan black-background lacquer with floral designs in four or five colors. She sells all her product in Cherán.

[Text continues on page 46a]

294 Some persons make and sell finished garments.
433 Men's trousers or blouses require about 2½ meters of
434 material, at an average cost of about 30 centavos a meter. One woman specializes in children's garments. She claims to make 3 to 4 dozen children's garments a
[435] week, selling them at 80 centavos to $2.50 apiece (including materials). Her profits vary. A child's rayon dress requiring $1.50 worth of material she sold for $1.75, while for a cotton dress requiring $0.40 worth of material she charged $0.80.

[439] All fitted or tailored garments, which are growing in popularity, are imported. A widely heard comment was that anyone in Cherán who could make and fit garments, especially men's shirts, would make great profits.

MINOR ACTIVITIES

433 *Candlemaking:*
434 Cost of wax (per kilo) .....
[394] Sales of candles from 1 kilo of wax ... $2.25–$2.50
Possible profit (excluding labor and equipment) ..... $0.50–$1.00

[283] *Rope making (horsehair):*
Horsehair $0.50 per kilo $0.37½
Labor ..... 1 day
Sale price $1.50
Gross profit per day $1.12½

Comment: Only one man was found who made ropes. No data were secured on agave fiber ropes made by the same man, nor on the time taken in marketing and securing raw materials. As all the equipment is homemade and very little capital is needed, the gross profit probably is close to net profit except for the factors mentioned.

295 *Shoemaking:*
433 Equipment:
434 Sewing machine $55.00
Lasts ..... ?
Knives ..... ?

Labor:
1 cheap pair of shoes per day is produced by a shoemaker and 2 unpaid apprentices
[435] Value of product (per pair) $3.00–7.00
Estimated gross income:
Per day 1.50
Per pair of shoes 1.50–3.50

Comment: No clear picture of the economics of this industry was secured. The selection and purchase of hides involves knowledge of tanning, size, and quality of the hide. Guarache makers apparently earn as little as 20 centavos a day, but there are no full-time professionals in town. All local manufacturers make guaraches to order and in claiming they make only one pair a day, they probably mean they do not attempt to make more than one pair a day.

281 *Tanning:*
435 Charge per cowhide ..... $5.00–$10.00
434 Charge per sheepskin ..... .50
Average daily return 1.25

281 434 *Comment:* The average daily return is an estimate, based on the assumption the tanner is busy all the time. The only full-time tanner buys hides, tans them on his own account, and sells them outside the village when he is not occupied with commissions. Consequently, his income is probably fairly steady.

922 434 *Lacquer:*

Weekly income about $5

Comment: Only one woman lacquer worker is found in Cherán. Her entire output is sold locally. The figure given is her estimate of her weekly income. Some of the lacquer materials are fairly expensive and the wooden trays used as a base must be purchased. Probably net income is much less than $5 weekly. The main lacquer industry is in Uruapan and is mostly in the hands of Mestizos.

256 433 434 *Bakers (commercial):*

Cost of materials (per week):

Flour, 1 *arroba* (25 pounds)	$3.50–$3.62
Lard, 1 kilo	1.50
Sugar, 3 kilos	1.08
Total	$6.08–$6.20

Labor:

No precise data; bakings per week, usually	3

Sales:

Gross returns per week, estimated	$10.00–$12.00

Profits:

(Estimated after deducting any rental costs for use of oven)	$3.80–$5.92

Comment: Sustained sales at the reported levels would produce slightly better than average wages. Despite the lack of definite data on hours of labor, a baker certainly works fewer hours and less strenuously than a laborer. Much time is probably consumed in selling; this may be done by a wife in the case of professional male bakers. Selling time is not included in the estimates. It should be remembered that a number of women bake occasionally; some bake regularly for the Sunday market in Paracho.

Bakers (home):

Aside from the professional baker of *pan dulce* recently established in the village and from whom no satisfactory information could be secured, there are a number of women who bake bread. Salt rising bread (*pan de sal*) is sold at two for 5 and one for 5 centavos, depending on size. [435] If *pan dulce* is made, it sells at 1 centavo or at three for 5 centavos, depending on size. In most cases the baker owns her oven, but in some cases an oven is rented. The rental is usually one [427] bread for each "board" (on which the bread is placed to rise).

177 463 aboriginal and European products and techniques. Most of his modern handicrafts are based on pre-Conquest industries (ceramics; wood products; leathercrafts; metal work in copper; weaving of cotton, agave fiber, stalks of tule). Except in a few pueblos, European techniques are now used in making pottery. In modern woodwork [412] the adz and the lathe are probably European and cabinet work is practiced entirely with Old World techniques. Cattle hide and horse hide ●[281] have replaced deerskin in leathercrafts, but the tanning techniques used are possibly aboriginal. [286] Although the ancient belt loom is used for most cotton and agave weaving, for weaving wool the European hand loom is employed. Sleeping mats (*petates*) are woven of tule as they were 500 years ago; hat making, on the other hand, is completely European. In regard to metals, European tech- [325] niques have replaced native methods, and iron has of course been introduced. Spanish friars and master craftsmen of the 16th century did indeed teach Tarascans many new techniques, but in most instances such were applied to long-established native industries.